

**Nushagak Advisory Committee  
March 1, 2023  
Fish and Game Office Dillingham Alaska**

I. Call to Order: 12:07 by Chair Susie Jenkins Brito.

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Susie Brito Chair Dillingham  
Travis Ball Vice Chair Aleknagik  
Dan Dunaway Sec. At large  
Gayla Hoseth 12:15 by phone Dillingham  
Robert Larson by phone Koliganek  
Todd Fritze Dillingham  
Joe Chythlook 12:23 by phone Dillingham  
Curt Armstrong 12:20 to 2:16 Dillingham  
Tom O'Connor by phone Dillingham  
Kenneth Nukwuk 3:55 by phone at large (resides in Manokotak)

Members Absent (Excused):

Mariano Floresta Clarks Pt.  
Lindsay Layland alt at large (Dillingham)

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Moses Kritz Togiak  
Chris Carr Portage Cr  
Peter Christopher New Stuyahok  
Barbara Moore Manokotak  
Joe Kazmirowicz Ekwok  
Wassily Andrews alt New Stuyahok  
Rick King alt Ekwok  
Joe Wassily alt Clarks Point  
Jimmy Coupchiak alt Togiak

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

III. Fish and Game Staff Present:

Tim Sands Com Fish	Phil Stacey Com Fish
Forest Bowers Com Fish	Matt Namath Com Fish
Lee Borden Sport Fish	
Bronwyn Jones Subsistence	Robin Dublin Subsistence
Taryn O'Connor Brito Boards	

IV. Guests Present:

Jeff Regnart BBSRI, Nushagak King Salmon Committee  
 Tom Brookover BBSRI, Nushagak King Salmon Committee  
 Robert Heyano drift, Nushagak King Salmon Committee

Fritz Johnson drift	Bruce Peterson BBFA
Nick Dowie set	Mark Lisac Public
Doug Morgan	Cody Larson BBNA
Gary Cline drift and BBEDC	Misa Webber BBRCT
Katherine Carscallen drift	Pete Andrew drift
Frank Woods drift and tender	
Craig Chythlook drift and International Arctic Research Center	

V. Introductions : Were done while we waited to obtain a quorum and resolve phone issues.

VI. Approval of Agenda

Dan moved Travis 2nd to adopt an agenda. VOTE 8 Y, 0 N Carried

VII. Subcommittee Authorization.

MOTION, Dan moved and Travis 2nd: to form a Subcommittee for the purpose of: 1) assure a quorum to finish all remaining AC business including Statewide comments; 2) to finish AC comments on proposals deferred from the November BOF meeting; 3) with the absence of Peter Christopher, add Todd Fritze to the subcommittee. Subcommittee members to be Susie, Dan Travis, Tom, Gayla, Todd, Peter.

VOTE 8 Y, 0 N Carried

VIII. Reports

1) Chair.

A) AC minutes and comments from February 10 meeting approved and submitted to Boards on time. A letter was attached to those minutes explaining the AC work to date and nature of delays the AC has faced on the King plans.

B) Summary of the February 17 AC King Subcommittee meeting: Several AC members listed in the Feb 13 Work Group meeting. New versions of the draft Action Plan and Proposal 11, dated 2-15-23, were provided by the BBSRI supported by the Nushagak

King Salmon Committee. The only AC sub-committee action taken Feb 17 was to add the option of a mesh restriction of 4 3/4 prior to June 28th in the Nushagak District into the final plan. The AC Subcommittee discussed many other options but hesitated to act on behalf of the full AC given the Working Group indicated they had more analysis and discussions to complete. Given the minimal action of the AC Subcommittee on the 17th, this summary is to suffice as a record of the meeting.

## 2) ADF&G

Staff present announced they were available to answer questions.

Forest Bowers spoke on the process and history the BOF has used to develop Action Plans for other areas.

## 3) King Salmon Working Group

Jeff Regnart and Tom Brookover, representing the Work Group, presented the latest version of their Stock Of Concern (SOC) Action Plan and draft Proposal 11 (dated 2-24-23). Additional data and projection tables were provided. The new language, and numbers for each action item in the 2-24-23 plan had been achieved by consensus of the Work Group and in concert with ADF&G staff. It was noted the drafts are NOT ADFG plans. Robert added some insights on the process as well.

Chair emphasized the product of this meeting should be clear statements from the AC to the BOF as to the intent and desires for management of the fisheries.

Regnart and Brookover reiterated the Work Group recommendation is to have a two part approach: 1) update the King Management Plan via Proposal 11, to serve as the umbrella or background plan designed to address management when king escapement is no longer an SOC and is meeting the escapement goal of 95,000 fish.

2) To create a stand-alone Action Plan to guide management while the Nushagak Kings are in SOC status. The intent is that when the Board terminates the SOC status, ALL parts of the Action Plan will expire without leaving residual regulations lurking on the books to cause problems or confusion.

## IX. Public Comment

There were no initial public comments, but the public was encouraged and allowed to participate in the discussions throughout the meeting.

## X. New Business

Action Plan and Proposal 11.

**MOTION** Travis moved, Tom 2nd to: take up the Nushagak King Salmon Management Plan and proposals 11, 12, 13 first and 2) then take up the SOC Action Plan. We need to take up the long term view first, even if it's likely to be a long time before we get there. Regulations from the regular plan may influence the SOC Plan.

**VOTE** Y 8, N 0 carries

The Chair noted that Proposal 12 has been formally withdrawn from considerations. Given what is done in 11 we may want to take no action when we get to 13.

**MOTION** Travis moved Joe 2nd to: adopt Final Draft REVISED Proposal 11 from the Nushagak King Salmon Committee (*PC356 at the Statewide BOF Finfish Meeting*) with the 2-24-23 revisions.

3:30 Break taken after final action on REVISED Proposal 11.

3:39 Resume meeting by taking up the Action Plan for Stock of Concern (SOC).

Upon completing work on Proposal 11 and the SOC Action Plan, the AC moved to take up Bristol Bay Proposal 13 and discussed which Statewide Proposals to take up.

At this point the full AC had lost quorum and the AC Subcommittee was in force.

It was agreed to take up Bristol Bay Proposal 13, and Statewide 157, 158, 163, 165, 166, 167.

Forest Bowers introduced these proposals and presented information and ADFG position if available. See template for discussion and AC actions.

XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting:

The Statewide meeting rep was established as chair Susie Jenkins-Brito at the November Meeting.

XII. Set next meeting date:

Call of the chair.

XIII. Other

Tim Sands and other ADF&G staff thanked the AC, Subcommittee and other participants for working on the plans and other issues.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues  
Proposals**

March 10-13, 2023 | Anchorage, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support/ Support as amended/ Oppose/No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (pros & cons), Voting Notes, Amendments

*Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.*

<p><a href="#">Nushagak King Salmon Stock of Concern Plan 5 AAC 06.### (likely 391). Nushagak District King Salmon Stock of Concern Mgt. Plan (PC356)</a></p> <p><b>SUPPORT</b></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Subcommittee Took Action on Stock of Concern (SOC) Plan as recorded in minutes above after Proposal 11.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote - In Favor: Susie Jenkins-Brito, Travis Ball, Tom O'Connor, Todd Fritze Opposed: Dan Dunaway <i>(Also voting in favor AC members Kenneth Nukwak and Robert Larson though these votes did not count for Sub Committee Vote)</i></p> <p>Sections (a) &amp; (b) self-explanatory - clarification regarding the intent of this plan to only be in regulatory effect when Nushagak King Salmon are listed as a Stock of Concern reviewed and reiterated.</p> <p>Section (c) and (d) had lengthy discussion on how managing for the SEG in the Wood River when the sockeye run was less than 7 million raised many concerns on how the 7 million number was reached (20-year Median) and if it should be lower. Dan Dunaway expressed many concerns that 7 million was too high and would direct more aggressive sockeye fishing as would the 2.5 million projection use for the Nushagak River Sockeye. ADF&amp;G staff indicated these ranges would increase fishing pressure after June 28th if in effect. Comments made regarding desire to fish hard after foregoing 6% of the run in either river was favorable. No motions made to amend these numbers but discussion for and against them were extensive.</p> <p>Sections (e) and (f) self-explanatory and unanimously supported in conversations.</p> <p>Prior to Action being taken on SOC Plan Dan moved to incorporate WRSMA into SOC plan Todd Fritze 2nd, providing another management tool to the Department was discussed as a measure to avoid harvest of Kings. Comments opposing cited congestion in the river, conflicts amongst user groups, conservation, pollution, and ecological concerns, Muklung King run lack of data conveyed, motion failed.</p> <p>Motion to incorporate reduced Mesh size of 4 ¾ prior to June 28th was made and failed without a second.</p>
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<p><a href="#">11 REVISED by the Nushagak King Salmon Committee (PC356) As Amended by AC</a></p> <p><b>SUPPORT AS AMENDED</b></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Travis moved to adopt Joe 2nd <b>Proposal 11 as Revised by the Nushagak King Salmon Committee in ADF&amp;G BOF PC356</b></p> <p>Revised Proposal reviewed carefully by the AC. Many comments regarding the need to prioritize subsistence as the very last fishery to be restricted or closed were iterated. Subsistence users felt strongly that commercial and sport fisheries should be restricted for conservation prior to any limitations being placed on subsistence users. The Nushagak AC supported a 7 day a week fishing schedule as a measure to ensure access to all fishers to be able to balance work, tides, and run timing in order to effectively harvest what is needed. Restricting access for subsistence should always be the last intervention by ADF&amp;G for King conservation as it also impacts harvest of all salmon species. The ANS for the Nushagak Subsistence fishery does not differentiate between salmon species. If time and area are restricted for king salmon, subsistence fishing could potentially be restricted by reduced gear type/mesh size as an alternative to limiting fishing time to allow for subsistence opportunities for other species (salmon and non-salmon). Subsistence users are only allowed gillnet as a gear type for salmon, except on Dillingham beaches both gillnet and dipnet are allowed.</p> <p>Motion made by Gayla, 2nd by Travis to amend Section 1. (a) 5. To state: <b><u>5)The subsistence fishery is the last fishery to be closed or restricted. Approved 8/0</u></b></p> <p>Member Dan Dunaway expressed concern as did ADF&amp;G managers present on the 7 million sockeye in the Wood River and 2.5 million sockeye in the Nushagak parameters for managing to the lower or upper end of the escapement goal for King salmon outlined in section 2 of the revised proposal. 5 million sockeye for the Wood River and 2 million for the Nushagak river were discussed. The 7 and 2.5 million were based off the Median from the past 20 years, these smaller run projections were based off the more of a 40 year Median.</p> <p>Several AC members commented that test fishing when able to be conducted should not be limited to the drift fleet but to set and drift alike. ADF&amp;G and BBSRI staff noted the</p>
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<a href="#">13</a>	Structure fishing periods in the Nushagak District so that pulses of king salmon, not subjected to commercial fishing pressure, may enter the Nushagak River.		
OPPOSE	0	13	<p><i>NOTE Recorded Vote is from Nush. AC minutes submitted to the November BOF meeting dated November 9, 2022.</i></p> <p><b>The AC took No Additional Action March 1, 2023 Travis moved Dan 2nd to Take NO ACTION based on the AC actions for Proposal 11 and the SOC Action Plan (vote in favor of No Action of 5/5 reflects the Sub Committee was in operation)</b></p>



<a href="#">157 &amp; 158</a>	Allow a person holding CFEC permits for multiple salmon net areas to commercial fish for salmon in more than one net area per year.		
OPPOSE	0	5	<p>Travis moved Dan 2nd to: take up 157 and 158 together. Extended discussion on merits and intent of proposals. Strong feelings expressed by several that a single permit holder fishing several permits in a year would be significantly detrimental to the owners of locally held permits or to locals aspiring to obtain permits. Could drive prices even farther out of reach. Fears of consolidating permits would drive up prices. ADFG indicated there are not a lot of individuals currently holding multiple permits. AC feels it might be a good time to again oppose multi permit fishing before it gets entrenched in a significant portion of the fleet. Status Quo is the preference of the Nushagak AC.</p>
<a href="#">163</a>	Prohibit guiding in personal use finfish fisheries.		
No Action Comments only			<p>Bowers introduced and discussed available information. Members shared knowledge of other subsistence and personal use areas in the state. No known such businesses in Bristol Bay.</p> <p>For 163 and 165, while we might support some of the concepts in these proposals we don't feel sufficiently informed to take action beyond commenting.</p> <p>While we appreciate the potential small business opportunity, competition for prime spots could get very ugly. Setting dollar amounts in subsistence fisheries really takes away from the nature of subsistence.</p> <p>It could be very hard to enforce.</p> <p>Sharing gas, skiffs, knowledge, etc is very common on a small scale ; how to separate that from a full scale business?</p> <p>Cody: "Sharing is a fundamental component in subsistence activities including equipment, knowledge, labor, and the catch; we should keep it to sharing."</p>
<a href="#">165</a>	Prohibit compensation for guide services in subsistence fisheries. See discussion for 163 above. Comments Only.		

<a href="#">166</a>	Establish a statewide bag limit for personal use finfish fisheries.		
NO ACTION			<p>Since subsistence dip netting is now allowed in the Nushagak, do we need to review this?</p> <p>ADFG explained there is little concern for the harvest impacts as each fishery (around the state) is managed on the surplus. It's not like the limited availability of moose for instance.</p> <p>Impacts and enforcement if this applied to the personal use of commercial catch could become onerous and is not needed. AC took no action but wanted to record the discussion.</p>
<a href="#">167</a>	Require inseason reporting of subsistence and personal use salmon harvest within 5 days of harvest.		
OPPOSE	0	5	<p>Todd Moved Dan 2nd.</p> <p>Todd and others said it takes more than 5 days to get my fish and what is the rush?</p> <p>Dan I intentionally spread out my harvest over months so I don't overload my freezer and to get different species.</p> <p>Others noted ADFG said it would be no in-season help for management and burdensome to staff. Many folks are spread out to remote fish camps - reporting would be very burdensome.</p>

I. X Adjournment: 6:53 PM

Minutes Recorded By: Dan Dunaway  
 Minutes Approved By: Susie Jenkins-Brito  
 Date: 3/8/2023